

Board of Boiler Rules Minutes
September 1, 2010

The Illinois Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules meeting was held at the Candlewood Suites in Springfield, IL on September 1, 2010. Mr. Hoveke, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Introductions were made at the start of the meeting.

Board Members Present: Ed Hoveke
 Donald Partney, Jr
 Chuck Hickman
 George Galanes
 Harold Hacker
 John Skermont
 Larry Skalnik

OSFM Staff Present: Ben Bailey, Superintendent, Boiler Division
 Alec Messina, Acting General Counsel
 Mike Vogel, Division of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety
 Clayton Novak, Division of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety

Guests Present: Brent Metrow, IL Emergency Mgmt Agency
 Rich Scheerer, FM Global
 Ron Weiss, FM Global
 Richard Glodowski, Abbott Laboratories
 Chuck Walsh, Illinois Historic Boiler Association
 Aaron Whitworth, Illinois Historic Boiler Association
 Jesse Jansen, Illinois Historic Boiler Association
 Tom Runty, Illinois Historic Boiler Association

ITEM 1 – APPROVAL OF JUNE 2, 2010 MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes of the June 2, 2010 Board of Boiler Rules meeting was made by Mr. Galanes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Skermont and passed unanimously.

ITEM 2 – HISTORICAL BOILER ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

Mr. Whitworth addressed the Board as a member of the Illinois Historical Boiler Association and an operating engineer. His presentation included photos of steam traction engines, examples of threaded staybolts, and drawings illustrating pitch between staybolts. He indicated some of the requirements of the National Board Inspection Code, as applied to historical steam traction engines, may be overly restrictive as to allowing a safe working pressure and gave some examples. He felt the Code does not take into account all of the variables that may come into consideration. He stated some other states are less restrictive than the Code.

On a question by Mr. Bailey as to what minimum working pressure is needed to operate these engines, Mr. Jansen indicated it is based on the engine and brand (manufacturer) and ranges from 135 to 175 pounds. Mr. Whitworth explained there is no braking of the engine except to put in reverse. When reversing at lower pressures, due to wetter steam, water may be pulled thru the engine and affect lubrication. Most engine owners are looking for 130 to 150 psi.

Mr. Whitworth had three questions for the board. First, can an average of the distance between stay bolts be used as these were built long ago and sometimes the distance would vary? Mr. Novak indicated this is being done currently. Second, can the pitch, defined as P^2 for the calculation, be defined as length times width in non-symmetrical situations such as a pattern of 4" x 5". Mr. Skalnik responded the pitch, P^2 , is defined in the National Board Inspection Code as the maximum pitch (or in the example, 5"). As the Board and State has adopted the Code, the Code definition must be adhered to. The third question related to a small wasted area in a firebox or barrel being used as the thickness for MAWP calculations. Mr. Skalnik indicated he thought the Code had comments as to how to address minimum thickness with consideration for small wasted areas that may be a lower thickness.

Mr. Hoveke stated he appreciated the hobby of the steam traction engines, and appreciated the public education these operators provide from a historical perspective. He further stated the Board is dedicated to the safety of the general public and citizens of Illinois in attendance at fairs and other exhibition gatherings. There is greater exposure to the public of the dangers of failures at these exhibitions. As the Code has been adopted by rules, to accomplish a change would be a 'State Special', and there is no other avenue to allow a variance at this time.

Mr. Whitworth stated safety was a primary concern of their organization as well.

Mr. Galanes stated there were good arguments presented and the best option is for the Association to petition the National Board sub-committee on steam traction engines as a revision or interpretation and offered to supply contact information.

Mr. Bailey suggested they also contact sister organizations to assist in the presentations to the National Board. He further stated that Mr. Vogel and Mr. Novak were the two Illinois State inspectors of steam traction engines and when possible give the benefit of doubt to the operators.

Mr. Walsh then addressed the Board and requested a liaison on the Board to represent the historical boiler operators. There are about 200 in the State. He inquired about a position on the Board representing the historical boiler operators. The Illinois Historical Boiler Association has a primary concern of safety, education and cooperation with the State. They conduct a historical steam school in Pontiac, IL as to the correct and proper way to operate these engines. He indicated Sycamore IL has an exhibition that has gone 54 years without an incident and Pontiac, IL has gone 61 or 62 years. He stated the most important safety piece on a boiler is the operator.

Mr. Hoveke stated that to place another member on the Board would require a revision to the statute and can not be done at this time. Mr. Galanes stated he would act as a liaison to the group from the Board and Mr. Hoveke concurred. Mr. Bailey also noted Mr. Galanes is a metallurgist. Mr. Galanes will open the lines of communication.

Mr. Hoveke thanked the gentlemen for their presentation on behalf of the Board.

ITEM 2 – DIVISIONAL REPORTS

Mr. Bailey reported as of July 1, the first month of the fiscal year, the state had made 1,783 inspections and insurance agencies 1,920 for a total of 3,703. The total number of active objects is 97,973, about the same as last year. Past due inspections greater than 90 days were 248 versus 179 in the same period last year.

Violation percentages for the Division were compared to the national percentages and remain about the same. 36 jurisdictions participate in the reporting to the national percentage.

Three audits were conducted in July. These can consist of the following: R stamp repair, safety valve repair, owner / user programs and Illinois repair authorization. There are 9 safety valve shops, 5 owner / users and multiple repair authorizations in the State. Mr. Vogel handles the audits in the southern half of the State and Mr. Lindbeck in the Northern half.

ITEM 3 – RULE CHANGES

Mr. Hoveke gave a summary of the special meeting held August 31 regarding changes to the safety act and the repairer act. He stated the timeline is a minimum of 90 days before approval and implementation. There will be a safety conference in the first quarter next year to explain the changes for state inspectors and insurance agencies.

ITEM 5 – NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hoveke indicated to those present the future meeting dates will be posted on the web site, there will be no further mailings.

On a question by Mr. Skalnik as to posting of the meeting minutes on the web, Mr. Messina indicated it can be done for approved minutes. Draft minutes can not be posted until approved.

Mr. Hoveke stated the ASME and NBIC codes are soon changing to a two year publication cycle with no addendums. The state will retain adoption of the 2007 codes with addendum until the new cycles begin. The updates will be addressed in 2011.

The next meeting will be held on December 1, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Galanes, seconded by Mr. Partney and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 1, 2010.

Respectfully submitted

Lawrence Skalnik
Secretary